

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-10 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 COA-01 OES-04 /084 W

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R 301740Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4942

INFO CINCLANT

COMICEDEFOR

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STTCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 1476

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT PFOR IC

SUBJECT: PARLIAMENT CONVENES - ECONOMIC AND DEFENSE ISSUE
TO PREDOMINATE

1. ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WILL DOMINATE ANNUAL FALL SESSION
OF PARLIAMENT WHICH BEGAN YESTERDAY, WITH DEFENSE ISSUE
ALSO EXPECTED TO BE MAJOR ITEM OF DEBATE.

2. YESTERDAY'S OPENING, MOVED BACK FROM TRADITIONAL
DATE OF OCTOBER 10 BY SUMMER SESSION AND GOVERNMENT'S
DESIRE TO PLOT ECONOMIC STRATEGY, WAS STRICTLY
CEREMONIAL. PARLIAMENT DID NOT MEET TODAY BUT CON-
VENES AGAIN OCTOBER 31, WHEN ELECTION OF PRESIDENT OF
COMBINED ALTHING AND DIVISION OF MEMBERSHIP INTO UPPER
AND LOWER CHAMBERS ARE DUE TO OCCUR. SELECTION OF
OTHER PARLIAMENTARY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
ALSO ON PROCEDURAL CALANDAR. PRIME MINISTER'S POLICY
STATEMENT, EXPECTED NEXT WEEK, WILL MARK BEGINNING
OF SUBSTANTIVE DELIBERATIONS.

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3. PRIME MINISTER GEIR HALLGRIMSSON, INTERVIEWED IN CONNECTION WITH ALTHING OPENING, TOLD PROGRESSIVE PARTY'S DAILY TIMINN THAT ECONOMIC ISSUES WILL HEAD AGENDA OF NEW SESSION. FIRST TASK, SAID PM, WILL BE PARLIAMENTARY RATIFICATION OF GOVERNMENT'S INTERIM MEASURES ON WAGE EQUALIZATION AND AID TO FISHING INDUSTRY (REYKJAVIK A-72 AND A-78). PROGRESSIVE PARTY VICE CHAIRMAN EINAR AGUSTSSON, ALSO INTERVIEWED IN TIMINN, ECHOED HALLGRIMSSON'S PRIORITIES AND ADDED THAT EXTENSION OF FISHING LIMITS AND DEFENSE ISSUE WOULD ALSO DOUBTLESS BE CONSIDERED. PARLIAMENTARY LEADERS OF THREE OPPOSITION PARTIES ALL STRESSED NEED FOR PARLIAMENT TO TACKLE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS BUT PEOPLES ALLIANCE CHAIRMAN RAGNAR ARNALDS PUT PRIMARY EMPHASIS ON DEFENSE ISSUE AND PA'S UNHAPPINESS WITH GOVERNMENT'S REFUSAL TO SUBMIT AGREEMENT WITH US TO ALTHING FOR RATIFICATION. HAVING FAILED TO OBTAIN PARLIAMENTARY CONSIDERATION OF DEFENSE AGREEMENT PRIOR TO LAST WEEK'S SIGNATURE, PA CAN BE EXPECTED TO TAKE MAXIMUM ADVANTAGE OF SUBSEQUENT DEBATE TO AIR ANTI-IDF CASE. IRVING

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